

# Compassion Agenda

**Empowering  
Families  
in Need**



*Senator Rick Santorum  
Chairman, Senate Republican Conference*



# Compassionate Conservative Accomplishments

## 1996 Welfare Reform

In 1994, Senator Santorum served as the ranking minority member of the House Ways and Means Committee's Human Resource Subcommittee, where he worked with a group of members to author the historic Welfare Reform legislation, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA). This legislation became an integral part of the Contract with America and spurred the Welfare Reform movement in the Senate. In 1995, when Senator Santorum was sworn into the Senate, he brought with him his leadership on and commitment to welfare reform, which allowed him to manage the welfare reform debate in the Senate in 1996. Senator Santorum's dedication helped ensure passage of the legislation that cut welfare caseloads in half, helped more than 7 million individuals and 22 million families exchange a welfare check for a paycheck.

### Welfare Reform Success:

- **Overall poverty and child poverty have dropped substantially.** Although critics predicted that welfare reform would push an additional 2.6 million persons into poverty, the U.S. Bureau of the Census reports there are 3.5 million fewer people living in poverty today than there were in 1995 (the last year before the reform).
- **Some 1.6 million fewer children live in poverty today than in 1995, and decreases in poverty have been greatest among black children.**
- **Hunger among children has been cut roughly in half.** According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), there are 420,000 fewer hungry children today than at the time welfare reform was enacted.
- **Welfare caseloads have been cut nearly in half** and employment of the most disadvantaged single mothers has increased from 50 percent to 100 percent.

### African American Child Poverty 1970-2001



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Poverty Status of People, by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2002."

- **The explosive growth of out-of-wedlock childbearing has come to a virtual halt.** The share of children living in single-mother families has fallen, and the share living in married-couple families has increased, especially among black families.

## The Renewal Alliance

Senator Santorum's work on welfare reform has reflected his broader vision to empower families, charitable organizations and local communities to improve their communities through volunteering. Following his work on Welfare Reform, Senator Santorum became the Senate Chairman of the Renewal Alliance--a group of House members and Senators whose goal was to promote and encourage citizens to become more involved in their local communities and to reduce dependency on inefficient and wasteful federal programs.

Santorum led the Senate on this issue by sponsoring legislation that encouraged volunteerism and "unshackled" charities so that they could go about the business of empowering lives.

In 1998, Senator Santorum sponsored the Renewal Alliance legislative initiative, REAL Life (S.1994, The Real Life Community Renewal Act of 1998), which focused on assisting those suffering from poverty, addiction, crime, abuse and neglect by empowering families, communities, businesses, churches, synagogues, and charities through:



- **Community Renewal: Enhances the ability of churches, charities and volunteer groups to gain access to resources through a state-based charity tax credit.** The Charity Empowerment Act empowers individuals to make charitable contributions to groups that bind communities together and heal lives. (S.997, The Charity Empowerment Act, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum))
- **Economic Empowerment: Targets the nation's 100 poorest communities for pro-growth tax benefits, regulatory relief, and savings incentives to restore the shattered economic base of inner cities and impoverished rural communities.** (S. 463, The American Community Renewal Act, Sponsor: Sen. Spencer (R-MI), Co-Sponsors: Sen. Santorum (R-PA), Sen. Lieberman (D-CT))
- **Educational Opportunities for Low-Income Families: Improves educational opportunities for children by promoting concerted efforts by parents, local communities, public schools and state and federal governments.** Empowers families through publicly funded scholarships. (S.

1996, The REAL Life Educational Opportunities Act, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA); S. 1719, The Educational Opportunities Act, Sponsor: Sen. Hutchinson (R-AR))

- **Support Investment and Homeownership for Low-Income Families through the Community Reinvestment Act:** The Community Reinvestment Act (S. 1996, The REAL Life Educational Opportunities Act, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA)) ensures that banking institutions meet the financing needs of low-income families to greater invest in communities and neighborhoods.

## The American Community Renewal and New Markets Empowerment Act

On June 22, 2000, Senator Santorum unveiled the American Community Renewal and New Markets Empowerment Act, an extension of his work as Co-Chair of the Congressional Empowerment Caucus with Senator Lieberman (D-CT), which builds upon Senator Santorum's Renewal Alliance legislative initiative and the Clinton-Hastert economic empowerment plan. Senator Santorum was joined by Senators Lieberman (D-CT), Abraham (R-MI), Hutchinson (R-AR), Kerry (D-MA), Kohl (D-WI), and Torricelli (D-NJ). The American Community Renewal and New Markets Empowerment Act addressed the desperate need to strengthen families and empower those who struggle economically. Provisions included:

- **Individual Development Accounts: to encourage wealth creation nationwide through matched-savings accounts:** enabling more working low-income families to save, build wealth and enter the financial mainstream. (S. 592, The Savings Opportunity and Charitable Giving Act, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA), Co-Sponsor: Sen. Lieberman (D-CT))
- **The New Millennium Classrooms Act: to increase the amount of computers donated to schools, libraries and senior centers through tax deductions and tax credits.** (S. 542, The New Millennium Classrooms Act, Sponsor: Sen. Spencer (R-MI); Co-Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA))
- **Renewal Communities: Creates 40 Renewal Communities with targeted pro-growth tax benefits, regulatory relief, brownfields cleanup, and homeownership opportunities for distressed urban and rural areas around the country.** (S. 2779, American Community Renewal and New Markets Empowerment Act, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum; Co-Sponsors: Sen. Lieberman (D-CT), Sen. Kerry (D-MA), Sen. Torricelli (D-NJ), Sen. Kohl (D-WI))
- **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit: to create more and better affordable rental housing for low-income individuals.** (S. 2779, American Community Renewal and New Markets Empowerment Act, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum; Co-Sponsors: Sen. Lieberman (D-CT), Sen. Kerry (D-MA), Sen. Torricelli (D-NJ), Sen. Kohl (D-WI))
- **Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities: to fully fund Round II of the Urban/Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities Program and 9 new Empowerment Zones.** (S. 2779, American Community Renewal and New Markets Empowerment Act, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum; Co-Sponsors: Sen. Lieberman (D-CT), Sen. Kerry (D-MA), Sen. Torricelli (D-NJ), Sen. Kohl (D-WI))



## Empower Individuals by Investing in Communities:

- On December 21, 2000, key provisions of the Community Renewal and New Markets Empowerment Package were signed into law, included in the year-end spending bill. On December 15, 2001 additional components of the Community Renewal and New Markets Empowerment Act were included in the Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Bill
- **These provisions invested in 40 Renewal Communities and 9 new Empowerment Communities by providing more than \$25 billion in tax relief for low-income individuals and communities over 10 years.**
- Before enactment of the Community Renewal and New Markets Empowerment Package, many states had not put into place provisions in the 1996 Welfare Reform package that allowed closer collaboration and also competition between private and faith-based groups to provide government services.
- **These provisions also expanded the charitable choice initiative to allow faith-based substance abuse treatment programs to receive federal assistance without discrimination based on their religious character.**



## The 2003 CARE Act

On January 30, 2003, Senator Santorum was joined by Senator Lieberman (D-CT), and Senator Bayh (D-IN) to introduce S. 272: "Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act of 2003" to provide incentives for charitable contributions by individuals and businesses, to improve the public disclosure of activities of exempt organizations, and to enhance the ability of low-income Americans to gain financial security by building assets.

On April 9, 2003, Senator Santorum celebrated Senate passage of the CARE Act by a vote of 95-5, which would:

- **Provide 86 million Americans who do not itemize the opportunity to deduct a portion of their charitable contributions**-representing more than two-thirds of American taxpayers.
- **Provide incentives for individuals to give tax-free contributions** from their Individual Retirement Accounts for charitable purposes, which will help a wide range of charities including educational institutions.
- **Provide incentives for an estimated \$2 billion worth of food donations** from farmers, restaurants and corporations to help those in need.
- **Provide 300,000 low-income working Americans the opportunity to build assets through matched savings accounts**, called Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), to purchase a home, expand educational opportunity or start a small business.

- **Provide \$150 million a year for a Compassion Capital Fund** to assist small community and faith-based organizations with technical assistance and expand their capacity to serve.
- Provide more than \$1.3 billion of additional funding for the Social Services Block Grant.
- Provide incentives for corporate charitable contributions and contributions of books.

## The Healthy Marriages and Responsible Fatherhood Act

### Benefits of Marriage for Children

- Better school performance and less dropout
- Fewer emotional and behavioral problems
- Less substance abuse
- Less abuse or neglect
- Less criminal activity
- Less early sexual activity and fewer out-of-wedlock births



11/18/02

On September 27, 2004, Senator Santorum introduced S. 2830 with Senator Bayh (D-IN), the Healthy Marriages and Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2004.

Research indicates that children living without fathers are five times more likely to live in poverty and twice as likely to commit a violent crime, be involved with drugs or alcohol, and drop out of school. Young girls are also much more likely to become pregnant if they grow up without a father figure in their lives. At the time of this bill's introduction, the federal

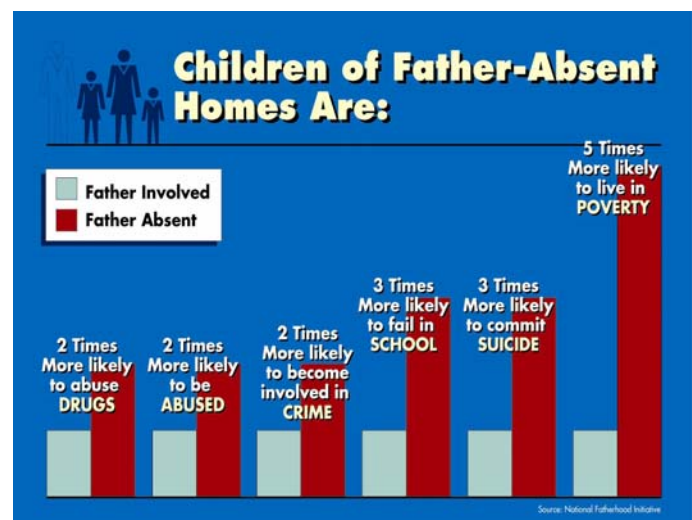
government was spending \$110 billion to treat drug and alcohol abuse, \$8 billion a year on dropout prevention programs, and \$7 billion on teenage pregnancy, without directly addressing the role of marriage and fatherhood in helping our children. **This legislation provides organizations with grants to strengthen fragile families through programs designed to help men take responsibility for their children, thereby targeting the drug and alcohol abuse, dropout rates, and teenage pregnancy problems through strengthening families.**

The Healthy Marriages and Responsible Fatherhood Act provides local community organizations, including faith-based groups, with grants to strengthen fragile families through programs designed to help men take responsibility for their children and families and to promote the formation of married, two-parent families. It also provides funds for local media campaigns to promote the same goals as the grant program, and requires all organizations that receive grant money to consult with a state or local domestic violence center.

## The MORE Act and the Encouraging Work Act

### The MORE Act

On January 24, 2005, Senator Santorum introduced S.6., the Marriage, Opportunity,



Relief and Empowerment (MORE) Act, to take historic steps to preserve, protect and promote marriage as a core institution in American society, to reform the welfare system to emphasize work, independence, and self-sufficiency; and to help those in need by encouraging charitable giving and assisting organizations who serve the needy. The Act included:

- **Title I: Family Tax Provisions:** makes permanent the provisions of the 2001 tax bill relating to families and children, as well as the provisions providing relief from the marriage penalty.
- **Title II: Welfare Reform:** Builds upon the 1996 reform legislation and includes expanded opportunities for education and training, increased workforce participation, and increasing mandatory child care spending.
- **Title III: The Charitable Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act:** helps people in need by encouraging charitable giving.

### **The Encouraging Work Act**

On March 11, 2005, Senator Santorum introduced the Encouraging Work Act (S. 595, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA), Co-Sponsor: Sen. Baucus (D-MT)). The Encouraging Work Act includes the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Welfare-to-Work programs, which help welfare recipients find jobs by transitioning them from dependence to self sufficiency through expanding incentives for employers to hire low-income Americans.

**On November 18, 2005, these provisions were passed by the Senate and included in the 2005 Tax Relief Act.** This measure would build on the success of welfare reform by providing these programs with greater stability, encouraging more employers to participate, making investments in expanding outreach to identify and train potential workers, and avoiding the uncertainty and inefficiency of termination and renewal.

**Employers in retail, healthcare, hotel, financial services and food industries have successfully incorporated WOTC and W-to-W into their hiring practices; the Encouraging Work Act builds on the success of Welfare Reform, which helped more than 7 million people and 2 million families exchange a welfare check for a paycheck.** These provisions are currently pending in the Senate "Trifecta" Bill.

### **The Senate Anti-Poverty Agenda**

On November 29, 2004, in his role as Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, Senator Santorum highlighted the need for a robust Anti-Poverty Agenda. In 2005, he led colleagues to plan and create a Senate Anti-Poverty Agenda. The twelve-point plan is comprised of the following provisions:



## Work

- **Welfare Reform Reauthorization:** (S. 6, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA)) Builds on the success of welfare reform to free more people from the cycle of welfare dependency by expanding work opportunity and strengthening families.
- **Work Opportunity Tax Credit/Welfare-to-Work:** (S. 595, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum; Co-Sponsor: Sen. Baucus (D-MT)) Helps welfare recipients find jobs that transition them from dependence to self-sufficiency.
- **Family Opportunity Act:** (S. 183, Sponsor: Sen. Grassley; Co-Sponsor: Sen. Kennedy (D-MA)) Expands eligibility under the Medicaid program to help low-income families obtain services for their severely disabled children.



Senator Santorum held a press conference announcing a comprehensive agenda to empower families in need. Two Pennsylvania leaders in the fight against poverty joined Santorum at the press conference: Rev. Herb Lusk, Founder & President of People for People in Philadelphia, (center) and Rev. Luis Cortes, President & CEO of Nueva Esperanza in Philadelphia (left).

## Investment

- **Individual Development Accounts:** (S. 922, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA), Co-Sponsor: Sen. Lieberman (D-CT)) Provides low-income, working Americans the opportunity to build assets through matched savings accounts.
- **Low-income Housing Assistance:** (S. 858, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum, Co-Sponsor: Sen. Kerry (D-MA)) Encourages the rehabilitation and construction of affordable housing and consider GSE reforms to help low-income families.
- **Marriage Penalty Relief/Child Tax Credit:** (S. 6, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA)) Permanently eliminates the unfair tax burden on married couples and make permanent the child tax credit to reduce child poverty.

## Neighborhoods

- **Charitable Giving/CARE Act:** (S.1780, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA); Co-Sponsor: Sen. Lieberman (D-CT)) Boosts charitable giving and assist faith-based and community charities to help millions more people in need.
- **Hunger Relief:** (S.1780, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA); Co-Sponsor: Sen. Lieberman (D-CT)) Promotes incentives to encourage food donation and delivery.
- **Faith-based as Full Partners:** Ensures faith-based organizations have a level playing field to compete for federal grants to deliver essential social services.
- **Prisoner Re-entry:** (S. 1934, Sponsor: Sen. Specter; Co-Sponsor: Sen. Biden (D-DEL)) Helps those forgotten in the nation's prisons and their children by providing more support and facilitating a healthy reentry into society.
- **Charitable Liability Reform:** (S. 1125, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA); S. 766, The Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Bill, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA)) Provides liability protections for businesses and individuals that make equipment and facilities available for charitable purposes.
- **Vouchers:** (S.1560, Sponsor: Santorum) Creates a commission to develop proposals on expanding choice for beneficiaries to improve options and social service delivery for those in need.

## 2005 CARE Act

On September 28, 2005, Senator Santorum reintroduced the CARE Act (S. 1780) to expand charitable giving incentives with Senator Lieberman. In the previous Congress, more than 1,600 organizations had endorsed the legislation and 23 Senators from both sides of the aisle were cosponsors of the bill. In that Congress, the CARE Act passed the Senate by a vote of 95-5 and the companion legislation passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 408-13, yet the bills were prevented from going to Conference.

During the current Congress, in response to the unprecedented need in the Gulf region following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Senator Santorum continued to work to pass these provisions that would support the charitable community by proactively finding ways to more fully engage the American public in charitable giving. The reintroduction of the CARE Act demonstrated Senator Santorum's and Senator Lieberman's continued commitment to partnering with the charitable agents of civil society.



Senator Santorum was joined by Representative George Radanovich (R-CA) at a press conference to unveil their Joint Senate-House Resolution urging Americans to increase charitable giving.

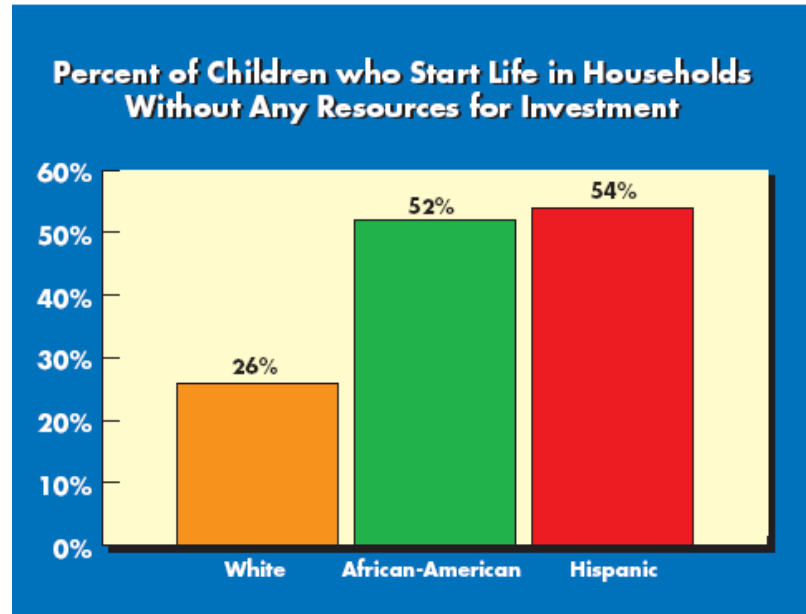
### The CARE Act:

- **Provides 83 million Americans the opportunity to deduct a portion of their charitable contributions**-representing more than two-thirds of American tax filers.
- **Provides incentives for individuals to give tax-free contributions from their Individual Retirement Accounts for charitable purposes**, which will help a wide range of charities including educational institutions. This provision not only spurs charitable giving but it is likely to make higher education more accessible and affordable.
- **Provides incentives for an estimated \$2 billion worth of food donations** from farmers, restaurants, and corporations to help those in need. American's Second Harvest estimates that this is the equivalent of 878 million meals for hungry Americans over 10 years. This incentive is strongly supported by food banks, farm bureaus and hunger advocacy groups around the country.
- **Provides 900,000 low-income, working Americans the opportunity to build assets through matched savings accounts**, called Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to purchase a home, expand educational opportunity, or start a small business.
- **Provides \$150 million for Compassion Capital Fund** to assist small community and faith-based organizations with technical assistance and expand their capacity to serve.
- **Provides more than \$1 billion of additional funding for the Social Services Block Grant.**
- **Provides incentives for corporate charitable contributions and contributions of books.**

- Includes key provisions from the earlier CARE Act that enjoyed wide bipartisan support.

## The Ownership Agenda

The next step towards promoting responsibility and opportunity for Americans in need involves empowering families through legislation that promotes investment, ownership and economic know-how. Throughout his years in the Senate, Senator Santorum has worked on legislation that supports savings in low-income families. In 2004, Senator Santorum participated in the Financial Literacy Day, and later incorporated several of his ownership and investment incentives into the Senate Anti-Poverty Agenda.



Senator Santorum also co-chairs the Congressional Savings and Ownership Caucus, formed in February 2005, which brings together key Members of Congress, their staffs, and leading outside experts to discuss—in a non-partisan, forward-looking manner—recent research findings, policy options, and potential legislative opportunities to advance the goal of expanding savings and asset ownership in America. The Caucus is co-chaired by Kent Conrad (D-ND) and Representatives Jim Cooper (D-TN), Phil English (R-PA), Harold Ford Jr. (D-TN), and Thomas Petri (R-WI).

On April 28, 2005, Senator Santorum Chaired the Subcommittee on Social Security and Family Policy of Senate Finance Committee hearing on "Building Assets for Low-Income Families". Senator Santorum has created an Ownership Agenda, which includes these pieces of legislation that he rolled-out in April, 2005:

- **The Community Development Homeownership Tax Credit Act: Encourages private sector construction of affordable single-family homes.** (S.859, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA); Co-Sponsor: Sen. Kennedy (D-MA))
- **The America Savings for Personal Investment and Retirement ("ASPIRE") Act: Establishes KIDS Accounts, a savings account for children** supported by incentives designed to encourage savings, promote financial literacy and expand asset-building opportunities like homeownership, education and retirement. (S. 868, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA); Co-Sponsor: Sen. Schumer (D-NY))
- **The Savings for Working Families Act: Creates Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) which encourage ownership among low-income individuals by offering them matches for their own savings** and by rewarding monthly savings of working-poor families who are trying to buy their first home, pay for post-secondary education, or start a small business. (S. 922, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum (R-PA); Co-Sponsor: Sen. Lieberman (D-CT))

- **The 401(k) Enhancement Act: Provides incentives for employers to automatically enroll employees in a 401(k) plan** by removing the barriers that have deterred employers from offering automatic enrollment in the past. (S.1819, Sponsor: Sen. Santorum)
- **Split Refunds: Facilitates the direct deposit of federal income tax refunds into IRAs and other similar accounts to open the door to savings for many Americans.**

## Food Stamps

On October 19, 2005, Senator Santorum successfully advocated on behalf of food stamp and nutrition programs as the Senate worked through the federal budget. During the Senate Agricultural Committee consideration of the budget reconciliation package, Senator Santorum strongly advocated for shielding nutrition programs from funding cuts to continue to provide a safety-net for needy Americans. Senator Santorum understands that at times food stamps are the only option for some families to put food on the table; his commitment to this program reflected his dedication to protecting those families who are less fortunate.

## Healthy Marriages and Responsible Fatherhood Signed into Law in the Deficit Reduction Act

On February 8, 2006, The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) was signed into law as part of the Spending Reconciliation Bill. The DRA includes Senate Anti-Poverty Agenda items-including renewal of welfare reform, healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood strengthening resources, and increased childcare resources. The DRA provides \$150 million annually for healthy marriage promotion and for the promotion of responsible fatherhood. The healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood initiatives will strengthen two-parent marriages, reduce poverty and improve child well-being.



Wade Horn (pictured), Asst. Secretary for Children and Families, HHS, joined Sen. Santorum (pictured), Sen. Talent, Jim Tyree, and Rev. Miguel Rivera at a press event to celebrate funding for the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Act.

The DRA also included the Family Opportunity Act. Parents of severely disabled children who earn an income above the poverty level lose Medicaid eligibility for their children who are disabled. The Family Opportunity Act enables parents to earn above-poverty wages without losing health care for their children.



### The specific provisions include:

- **Reauthorizes the welfare program** through fiscal year 2010 at its current funding level of \$16.9 billion annually
- **Provides an additional \$1 billion for childcare** over five years for a total of \$2.917 billion annually
- **Updates work participation rates to the more relevant date of 2005, ensuring that the intent of the 1996 welfare reform act that at least half of all single-parent, and at least 90 percent of all two-parent welfare recipients engage in work activities is realized**
- **Provides \$100 million for grants to ensure that the safety, permanence and well-being needs of children are met in a timely manner through the child welfare system**
- **Increases the Safe and Stable Families program to \$200 million for community-based family support services** for family preservation services, family reunification services, and adoption promotion.
- **Provides \$100 million annually for healthy marriage promotion, and \$50 million annually for the promotion of responsible fatherhood.**

## **Progress on Ownership Agenda and the CARE Act**

### **Ownership Agenda**

On August 17, 2006, the Pensions Protection Act was signed into law. It includes incentives and tools to plan and save for retirement, including S.1819, the Enhancement Act: Encouraging Retirement Savings to encourage employers to offer automatic enrollment into employer sponsored defined contribution plans to encourage employee participation. The DRA also codifies split-tax refunds and direct deposit of tax refunds to IRAs, a policy Senator Santorum has advocated for as Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Savings and Ownership Caucus, and that the IRS adopted in May, 2006.

### **CARE Act**

Additionally, Senator Santorum celebrated the inclusion of eleven provisions from his CARE Act, S. 1780, to support charitable and non-profit groups through charitable giving incentives. Senator Santorum also fought against excessive reforms that would have been detrimental to charitable donations for conservation purposes, and which would have placed limits on contributions of clothing and other items. Senator Santorum has fought to prevent the documented areas of abuses while ensuring that there were no unintended consequences for our nation's nonprofit sector.

### Provisions Include:

- **Provides incentives for individuals to give tax-free contributions from their Individual Retirement Accounts for charitable purposes**—Allows individuals to donate up to \$100,000 from a traditional individual retirement account (IRA) or a Roth IRA to charity without paying income tax on the distributions.



- **Expands incentives for businesses and farmers to donate an estimated \$250 million in food donations in the next 2 years.**
- **Expands incentives for charitable giving for conservation purposes**—Allows land-rich, but cash poor families an opportunity to donate land for conservation purposes by increasing the charitable deduction limit from 30 percent of adjusted gross income to 50 percent if the donation does not prevent the use of the land for farming or ranching purposes. The charitable deduction limit is increased to 100 percent of adjusted gross income for eligible farmers and ranchers.
- **Provides Incentives for S Corporations to give for charitable purposes**—Levels the playing field for the donation of stock by small businesses by clearly defining the applicable deduction with regard to the donation of stock of an S corporation as a charitable contribution.
- **Extends charitable donations of inventories to public schools**—Modification of charitable deduction for contributions of book inventories.

## Debt Relief and HIV/AIDS



Senator Santorum met with Bono of the rock group U2, to discuss ways America can meet its commitment to the Global Fund and increase support for President Bush's Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) initiative. Both initiatives are a high priority to Bono, his organization DATA, and Sen. Santorum. 2/24/06

The United States has increased the financial contribution to bodies and organizations already engaged in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic; to date, the United States has tripled its HIV/AIDS-related funding to organizations such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Throughout Senator Santorum's tenure in the Senate, he has consistently been a leader in efforts to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS and to prevent the disease from impacting those who are most vulnerable. Senator Santorum has worked closely with many influential figures on this issue, including U2 lead singer Bono, to provide an increase in U.S. assistance to combat HIV/AIDS and to bring more awareness to the issue.

In 2002, Senator Santorum introduced S.2210, the Debt Relief Enhancements Act, a bipartisan debt-reduction bill, which would free up money in heavily

indebted countries for HIV/AIDS prevention, and which also emphasized the role of faith-based organizations already on the ground in sub-Saharan Africa. Senator Santorum has also sponsored legislation to reduce the amount of interest paid by Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)s to multilateral entities. Senator Santorum also urged President Bush to promote new efforts to battle the extreme poverty in the World's poorest nations and has urged the Senate to pass bipartisan legislation to eliminate the debt of poor nations. The agreement reached would cancel approximately \$40 billion in debt stock owed by 18 countries immediately and will ultimately result in the cancellation of a total of nearly \$56 billion in debt stock owed by 38 countries.

Senator Santorum has continually worked with the Appropriations Committee to ensure funding for a coordinated response to the HIV/AIDS crisis; Senator Santorum has introduced numerous pieces of

legislation that provide funding, resources, medical supplies, and educational programs to address HIV/AIDS.

- The Senate passed Senate Amendment (S.A.) 3052, Sen. Santorum's amendment to **increases the United States' contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria to \$866 million in fiscal year 2007**. (Co-Sponsor: Sen. Durbin (D-IL), March 16, 2006)
- The Senate passed Senator Santorum's amendment to **provide additional funding for the purchase of one million rapid oral HIV tests**. (October 26, 2005)
- The Senate passed Senator Santorum's amendment to **provide \$100 million of additional funding for the Global Fund's Child Survival Health Program Fund account**. This brings the collective U.S. contribution to the Global Fund for FY2006 to \$600 million, the minimum needed to allow the Global Fund to renew existing grants. (July 20, 2005)
- Sen. Santorum announced the passage of his amendment to the FY06 Budget Resolution to **fully fund President Bush's fiscal year 2006 Budget request for bilateral HIV/AIDS programs, and to provide an additional \$500 million in multilateral funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria**. (March 17, 2005)
- The Senate passed S.A. 1966 to H.R. 2800, co-sponsored by Sen. Santorum to **increase funding to \$289 million and to increase U.S. assistance to fight HIV/AIDS**. (October 30, 2003)
- The Senate passed S.A. 1623 to H.R. 2660, which Senator Santorum co-sponsored, to **increase funding for prevention of mother-to-child HIV by \$60 million**. (September 10, 2003)

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